Final Visual Presentation for the degree of Master of Visual Arts

Painting

Andrew John Neil

1978



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THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA FINAL VISUAL PRESENTATION

by

ANDREW J. NEIL

A THESIS

SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH
IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE
OF MASTER OF VISUAL ARTS

IN

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DEPARTMENT OF ART AND DESIGN

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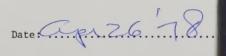
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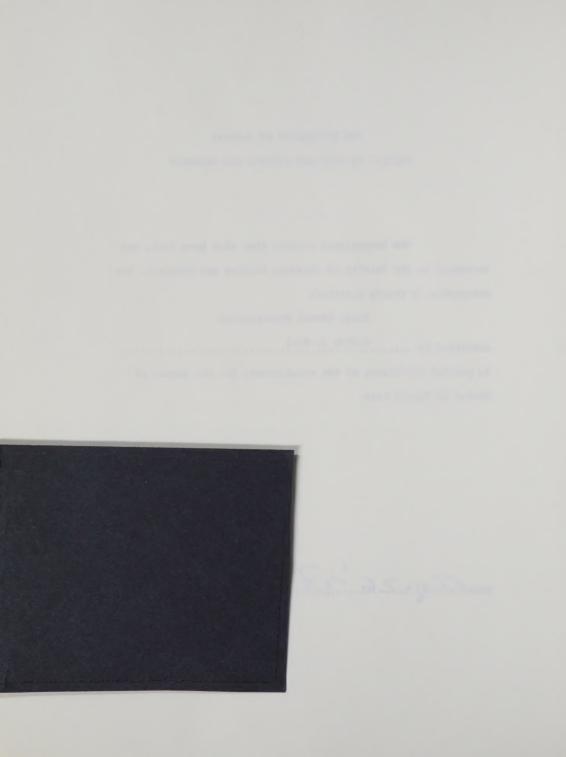


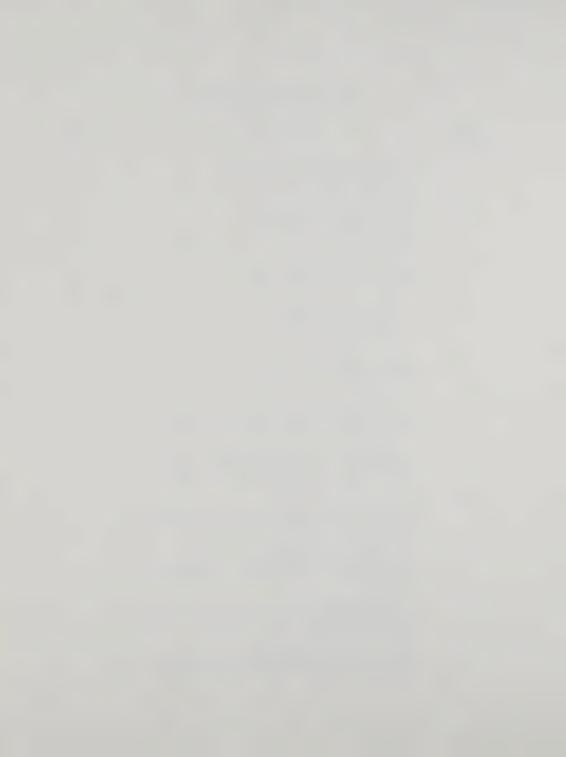
TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHIC SLIDES	٧
STATEMENT	1
VITA	3
PHOTOGRAPHIC SLIDES	6

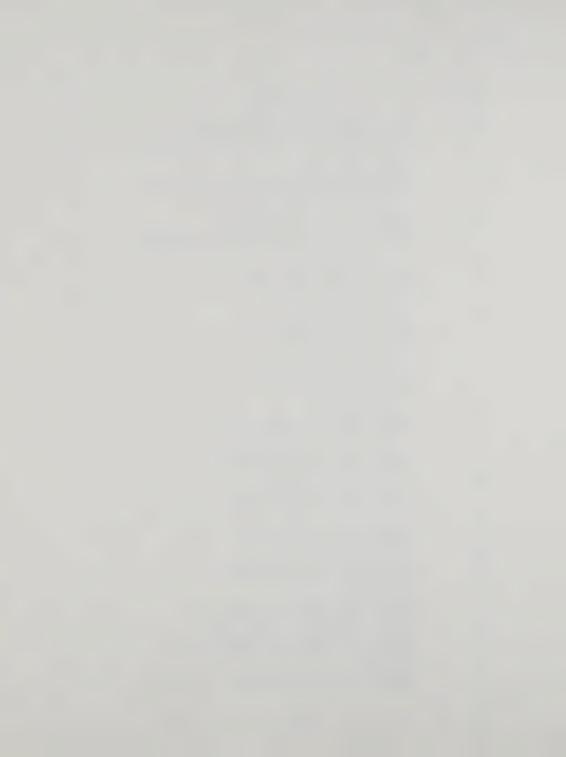


LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHIC SLIDES

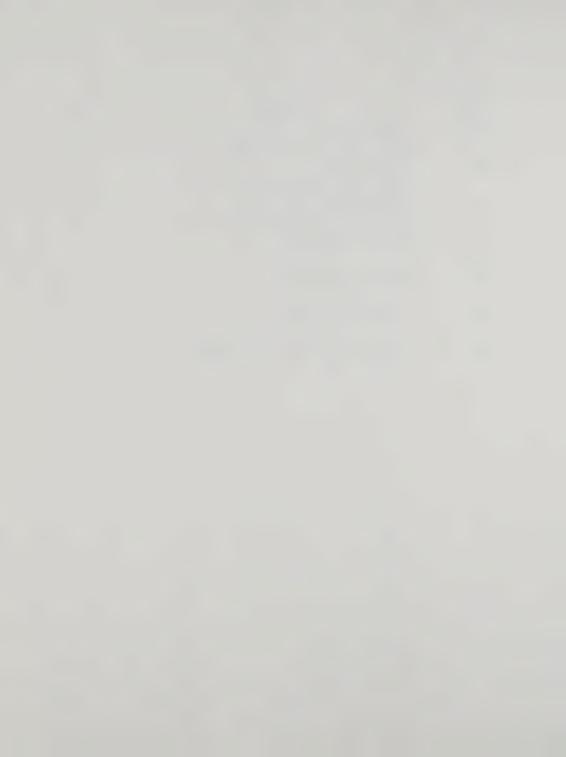
Slide	Description	Page
1	'Acorn Squash and Brazil Nuts' Oil on canvas, 12½" X 11½", December 1976	6
2	'Acorn Squash and Cucumber' Oil on canvas, 14¾" X 8¼", January 1977	6
3	'Tins and Hankies' Oil on canvas, 23¾" X 13¾", March 1977	6
4	'Cantaloupe and Pears' Oil on canvas, 10" X 8", March 1977	6
5	'Onion, Asparagus, Leek and Turnip' Oil on canvas, 16" X 12", April 1977	6
6	'Avocado and Green Beans' Oil on canvas, with tempera underpainting, 14½" X 15", May 1977	6
7	'Plums, Onions and Swiss Chard' Oil on canvas, with tempera underpainting, 19¾" X 10¾", June 1977	6
8	'Cucumber and Pea Pod' Oil on masonite, with tempera underpainting, 13%" X 5½", August 1977	6
9	'Carrots and Nectarines' Oil on masonite, with tempera underpainting, 12½" X 10", September 1977	6
10	'Two Red Onions' Oil on masonite, with tempera underpainting, 11" X 7½", October 1977	6
11	'Squash, Lobok and Pears' Oil on masonite, with tempera underpainting, 19" X 9". October 1977	6



Slide	Description	Page
12	'Gourd, Black Radishes and Cucumber' Oil on masonite, with tempera underpainting, 19" X 12", November 1977	6
13	'Squash and Walnuts' Oil on masonite, with tempera underpainting, 12½" X 8½", November 1977	6
14	'Aubergine, Garlics and Pepper' Oil on masonite, with indian ink underdrawing 19" X 14½", January 1978	6
15	'Red Onions and Garlic' Oil on masonite, 22½" X 17¾", January 1978	6
16	'Loboks and Turnip' Oil on masonite, 22¾" X 17¾", February 1978	6
17	'Cluster Beet and Loboks' Oil on masonite, 23¾" X 17¾", March 1978.	6
18	'Summer Squash' Pencil, 15" X 11", January 1977	7
19	'Lemon, Bad Cucumber and Avocados' Pencil, 23" X 9", January 1977	7
20	'Acorn Squash and Cucumber' Pastel, 14½" X 8", January 1977	7
21	'Two Pears' Gouache, 6¼" X 5", March 1977	7
22	'Three Nectarines' Gouache, 10" X 8", March 1977	7
23	'Turnip and Garlic' Gouache, 8½" X 5½", March 1977	7
24	'Onion, Asparagus, Leek and Turnip' Gouache, 16" X 12", April 1977	7
25	'Cucumber' Pencil, 14½" X 12½", May 1977	7



Slide	Description	Page
26	'Two Aubergines' Pencil, 10光" X 3装", May 1977	7
27	'Hanging Loboks' Pencil, 17½" X 17½", May 1977	7
28	'Three Onions' Pencil, 20¾" X 10½", June 1977	7
29	'Okra and Green Bean' Pencil, 16" X 15½", June 1977	7
30	'Cucumber and Pea Pod' Pencil, 14½" X 5", August 1977	7
31	'Gourd, Hanky and Egg' Pencil, 157" X 12", October 1977	7
32	'Gourd, Black Radishes and Cucumber' Gouache, 18½" X 11½", November 1977	7



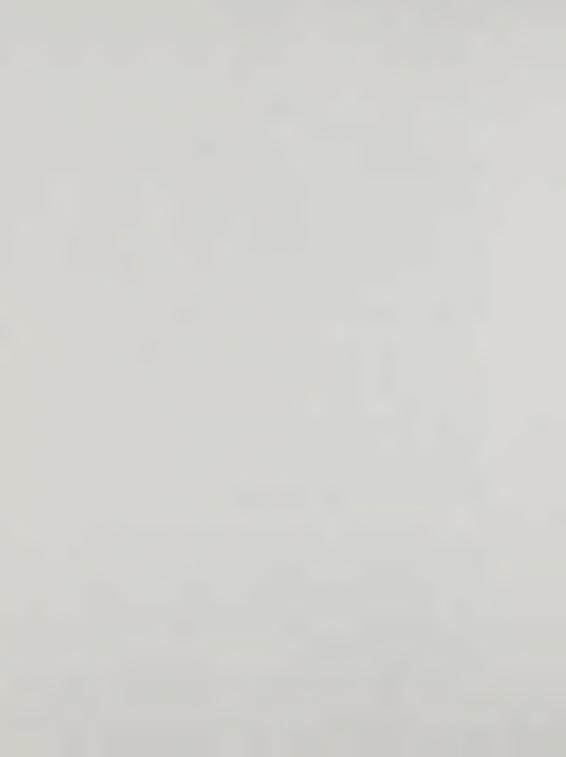
STATEMENT

In my work I deal with still-life arrangements of organic objects. These organic objects continue to change in volume, texture and colour during the execution of the painting. This lack of permanence in my chosen subject prohibits comparison of my completed work with the original still-life group. Consequently, I have been able to concentrate upon the creation of convincing illusions of space and volume that reveal my subjective interpretation of the objects and their relationships to each other and to their environment.

Working from the still-life allows me to be physically close to the organic objects which motivate me. This closeness affords an intimate perception of these objects. The scale in my paintings and the small size of my picture rectangle do not contradict this intimate approach which I have to the objects. The scale and size also leads the viewer to stand near to the paintings and this close contact with them encourages an intimate viewing of the works.

By the arrangement of the elements of line, tone, texture and colour upon the picture rectangle, I try to promote a perception of space and volume that corresponds to my perception of the still-life group. In this arrangement I strive for a pictorial unity which encourages an interpretation of the illusions of space and volume presented as being believable.

My subjective, emotional response to the actual still-life group



is triggered by my perception of its physical characteristics and the associations which these then suggest to me. Therefore, by creating a believable illusion of space and volume that corresponds to my perceptions of the subject, I am able to manifest my subjective interpretation of the still-life group. This set of stimuli is then perceived by the viewer whose interpretation of them will not necessarily be the same as mine, due to his differing bias and experience.

